



George Yui, President, Diemaster Tool Inc., Cooksville

“For myself, toolmaking is more than a job, it’s a hobby, it’s my obsession, it’s my whole life.”

“Only the top ones, only the people really interested in the trade, stay as apprentices in my company! I select apprentices carefully, and my program here has a 100 per cent success rate. I’m not looking for a person who knows anything about machines; I’m looking for common sense, and a desire to succeed. Once people know and can master every single trick, then they should move to the next project, to the next position.

“Toolmaking is a challenging trade. It’s a difficult trade, and it takes a very clever person to do the job properly.”

“Toolmaking is very important for everyday living, for defense, for research and development. There is not a single item that we use that a toolmaker was not involved in. In one average house, there are up to a hundred thousand items that have been produced by the tooling that is made by toolmakers.”

“A toolmaker can find a job anywhere – this is the beauty of it. I learned my trade in China and I worked for several years in Brazil. I never had any trouble when I came to Canada either and could hardly speak English. I found a job myself, through

the newspaper in 10 days, and back in 1966, it was hard to find a job. In my opinion, there was, and is, a market for good precision workmanship. Now I have the opportunity to express my craft through the personnel I manage.”

“Toolmakers become production supervisors, process planners, designers, engineers, plant managers, presidents, inventors.”

“If you are manager, how can you manage if you don’t understand what your people are doing? You must understand what they do, how they do it, before you can start managing them. In my opinion, bank managers would be better managers if they were toolmakers, you know, because they’ll understand the

ins and outs of the manufacturing industry. Patent attorneys with mechanical engineering or toolmaking backgrounds are able to understand the mechanical devices they have to patent.”

“We’re going to have more and more special-purpose machines; by the year 2000 we’re going to have robots doing the work for us. You press the button and the robot does it. Now the question is who’s going to make the robot and who’s going to make the button? Toolmakers. You can imagine the number of electricians, toolmakers, mechanics, and machinists needed to make and service these machines in the future! •



**Jacques Verner,
Foreman, Numerical
Control Machine
Department, Atomic
Energy of Canada
Limited, Ottawa**

“I enjoy what I’m doing. I get the drive out of it; I get fun out of it. I enjoy my work.”

“AECL had just three Numerical Control (NC) machines when I started eight years ago as a journeyman machinist. NC really intrigued me the way it was working. I ordered a 23-volume correspondence course, studied hard, and the first day AECL put me on an NC machine I made a little program. Since then the company has sent me on several courses in the States and Canada to learn about different NC machines.”

“Numerical Control machines direct the movements and functions of metal cutting machines – the lathes, the milling and boring machines. Using different coding, you can ‘write’ whatever movement you want onto

tapes. The coded information then goes into the memory bank of the NC and it comes out as a machine function.”

“NC machines are a relatively new concept. If the setup is good, with the right speed, depth, diameter, the right size of milling cutter, all according to the blueprint, the machinist can make a hundred parts, all exactly identical. NC machines can be used to great advantage in large and small batch quantities without incurring the high cost of jigs and fixtures.”

“I like precision. I like to really make a part look good, and, at the same time, make it exactly the right size. At AECL, we work in tenths of a thousandth of an inch. I love the accuracy. It’s part of my trade.”



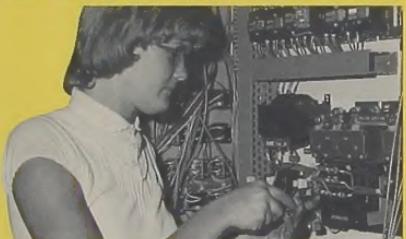
George Giesbrecht, General Manager, Uniroyal Ltd., Rubber Machinery Shops, Kitchener

“If it sounds like we’re terribly enthused about apprenticeship training, we are.”

“Skill training is the primary source of skilled people in Uniroyal’s Rubber Machinery Shops. It is almost the lifeline of our company. Certainly, we do hire from the outside, but we rely heavily on our training programs to replace those employees who retire or move on, or to fill new positions as we expand our shop.”

“Companies who buy tooling or machines are really buying the result of skills. Companies need training programs to obtain needed tradespeople and to realize their full potential. Training should be a part of their ongoing review of their labour market needs. Personally, I think they should train for the good of their company, for two reasons – to secure their own people and to provide young people with the basis for life-long careers.”

“Uniroyal makes staff people out of their journeymen. And I can do my job better because of my machinist background. It’s an asset for anyone in a supervisory or management position to know ‘the tools of the trade’.”



**Sheryl Maisonneuve,
Journeyman Electrician, *
Windsor**

“Being an electrician is a challenge. It’s great, after doing all the wiring, to see a machine or a system work.”

“I served my apprenticeship through the Essex and Kent Joint Apprenticeship Council who, in turn, sent us to four or five different shops during our apprenticeship to get a variety of job experiences. The training has been excellent with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. We had four years of night school besides our

24 weeks of day school at St. Clair College. I would have been lost without all that extra schooling. We covered industrial, commercial and some residential electrical work. My home base is still the union.

“My training has been a constant education. You learn something new all the time. You never do anything that you don’t learn from. You get on a small job, when there’s only you and another guy, then you have to learn.”

“To be a good electrician, you have to get along with the partner you are working with all day. You have to have patience, especially when you’re wiring a panel. You have to keep all your wires neat; you have to remain calm, too.”

“I can’t speak for other trades, but I know in this one you can’t be scared to get dirty, to break your nails. You can’t be afraid to walk into a plant of 500 guys; you’ve got to stick your head up in the air and say ‘I belong here too!’ It’s the only way you can do it. You have to be willing to learn.”

“I took commercial in high school, because girls always take commercial! I worked in a bank for two years after getting my grade 12. Working in a bank was boring with just four walls all day.”

“It hasn’t been an effort for me to keep going. I love it. I think you have to be gun-ho to go into something like this. Have no ideas of saying, ‘If I don’t like it, I’ll quit.’ You have to be totally committed before you go into an apprenticeship – four years is a long time. But it goes by quickly; it’s not like going to school for four years. You’re getting paid while you learn.”

“I always wanted to be an electrician.”

“When I was small I used to always say I was going to be one. Everyone used to laugh. One night, I told my Dad I wanted to apply for an apprenticeship position, and he just kept eating his supper. But it’s total encouragement now. My mother is just ecstatic about me being an electrician. She’s more excited about this than I am. I think she wishes she could do something like that.” •

Skills at Work

Read personal accounts of opportunities in the skilled trades by people who know: employers, journeymen, and apprentices!



Alex MacDonald, B.Sc., Superintendent of Mechanical Maintenance, Algoma Steel Company, Sault Ste. Marie

“I can’t say enough to people about the importance and value of learning a trade today.”

“About 45 per cent of our tradespeople in Canada today are over 40 years of age, if I remember a recent survey correctly. Young people should realize that a skilled trade is a good career path to follow. They will be in demand — no doubt about it. Then, if they want to get further ahead by going to college or university, they can and also carry with them a practical trades background.”

“I wanted to be a machinist from the time I entered high school, although there were a number of careers I could have chosen. The money was good, the working conditions were good, and the machinists I knew looked like they enjoyed a pretty fair living without too many worries. After grade 12, I trained in the machine shop at Algoma. Every year I took correspondence courses and advanced technical courses at night school.”

“Personally, I feel there is no substitute for a person who has gone through a trade first and then university.”

“After university, your trade training really starts to pay off. A company can shoot you directly into a supervisory job. You’ve got something which the person who has come straight through university will probably never get: you’ve worked with people in the union for a number of years; you already know about shiftwork and working weekends; you’ve been there

before. You can put yourself in their shoes and understand your people’s problems. I think this experience on the shop floor is very important. On the other hand, my university training helps me relate well to management. I would recommend the route I followed to anyone.”

“If I ever had to leave my present job, I’d go back to the machine shop and be a machinist. It’s my first love, and it gives me a feeling of security.”

Lorne and Violet Catherwood, Parents of Gwen Catherwood, Apprentice, Kingston

“We are awfully proud that our daughter is a mechanic — really, really proud of her — mainly because she did what she wanted to do and she was successful at getting what she wanted. We couldn’t be more thrilled had she graduated as the best student in medicine or law.”

Violet Catherwood: “Gwen has been hired by Rio Algom in Elliot Lake to apprentice at one of the mines as an industrial mechanic. At first Gwen will be working above ground on their pumps and mill equipment. But she might well be one of the first women in Ontario as a heavy duty equipment mechanic apprentice to work underground after the legislation goes into effect. Until now, women

were never allowed to work underground. Gwen has been credited with almost one year off her apprenticeship term because she graduated from Sir Sandford Fleming College in the heavy equipment mechanic program following grade 13.”

Lorne Catherwood: “At one time we owned a hobby farm with a lot of very old machinery which always needed



repairs. Although our two sons would help sometimes, it was really Gwen and I who did all the building, fixing, and repairing. She seemed to have a knack for mechanical work. Even at that time, she was considering becoming a mechanic and we encouraged her.”

“With a trade background, you’re secure, you can always get a job, you can always earn money. Gwen understood that at a very early age.”

“I worked in the mines myself as an electrician. I also did mechanical and carpentry work. Now I’m a real estate broker and my trade background certainly helps me. I call myself a commercial property buyer, for example, that an electrical panel is not adequate for their needs. It helps me do appraisals, too. There are many real estate people and other small businessmen today who are former plumbers, carpenters and electricians and making an extremely good living.”

“Because tradespeople have to keep learning and experimenting with new methods, they are more adaptable to change. I think that’s why tradespeople will always have the advantage, why they’ll always be able to take care of themselves in a major recession, for example, because they can adapt to and learn new life skills.”

“A trade is the basis for everything. I really feel that, in the future, more and more people are going to be involved in the trades. The trades are coming back.”

Gwen Catherwood: “My parents have supported me one hundred per cent. Naturally, they pointed out the pros and cons of training and working in the skilled trades but they

left it up to me to decide. My two brothers were pulling for me, too. That helps.”

“It can be hard to find an apprenticeship position; you’ve got to be willing to move where the jobs are. But once you’ve got your journeyman certification after the training period, you’re on your way.”

“Learning a trade is what I’ve always wanted to do and I’m glad I am where I am. I think the trades are the best place to be.”



Bette Stephenson, M.D., Minister of Colleges and Universities, Minister of Education

“We must all recognize the absolutely vital role of skilled tradespeople in our society; with their heads and their hands, using machines and tools, they make Canada industrially productive. They become our entrepreneurs and often the presidents of their own companies — the very backbone of our economy. As these interviews show, the career opportunities in the skilled trades are almost unlimited.”

Information about apprenticeship is available at any of the following Apprenticeship Branch offices of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities:

Barrie (705) 737-1431
114 Worsley St.

Belleville (613) 968-8671
Loyalist College, Wallbridge Loyalist Rd.

Bracebridge (705) 645-8643
98 Manitoba St.

Brampton (519) 756-5197
City Hall, Rm. 229,
100 Wellington Sq.

Brokerville (613) 345-0660
St. Lawrence College,
20 Parkdale Ave.

Chatham (519) 354-9100
St. Clair College, Thames Campus

Cornwall (613) 933-5400
St. Lawrence College, 801-4th St. E.

Hamilton (416) 527-9105
499 King St. E.

Kenora (807) 468-3325
37 Main St. S.

Kingston (613) 544-2541
Ste. 306, 105 Princess St.

London (519) 453-7190
Unit 19, 520 First St.

Mississauga (416) 279-3731
Sheridan College,
2186 Hurontario St.

North Bay (705) 474-5509
1500 Fisher St.

Oshawa (416) 576-0171
Durham College, Simcoe St. N.

Ottawa (613) 731-7100
Ste. 406, 1355 Bank St.

Owen Sound (519) 376-5790
Georgian College, 1150-8th St. E.

Pembroke (613) 735-1041
Algonquin College,
315 Pembroke St. E.

Peterborough (705) 743-4172
Sir Sandford Fleming College,
526 McDonnel St.

St. Catharines (416) 684-8543
Niagara College, Rm. A-235

Sarnia (519) 542-7751
Lambton College, North Campus
1457 London Rd.

Sault Ste. Marie (705) 942-4420
421 Bay St.

Stratford (519) 273-1520
Conestoga College, 210 Water St.

Sudbury (705) 560-3440
Cambrian College, Rm. 3152,
1400 Barndyway Rd.

Thunder Bay (807) 475-1605
1265 East Arthur St.

Timmins (705) 235-3644
Northern College, Hwy. 101,
S. Porcupine

Toronto
558 Yonge St. (416) 965-4211
32 Greenville St. (416) 965-6462

Waterloo (519) 884-5460
421 King St. N.

Windsor (519) 254-8654
1427 Ouellette Ave.

Toll-free calling may be available from other locations; look under *Government-Ontario Apprenticeship and Manpower Training* in your directory white pages.

Disponible en français aussi de :
Communication Services Branch
Ministry of Colleges and Universities
14th Floor, Mowat Block
Queen’s Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2
(416) 965-6407

Ministry of
Colleges and
Universities
Ontario

DEPOSITORY LIBRARY MATERIAL
LIBRARY

31761118936582

Classified
advertisements

9143

ISBN 0-7743-4399-0

99